

Daily Devotional, March 24, 2021

'Arguments About Words', (2 Timothy 2:14)

“Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.” (2 Timothy 2:14, NKJV)

It is good to delve deeply in the Bible, to read and to study it diligently. For indeed we are commanded to **“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”** (2 Timothy 2:15). But our text verse which precedes this says that we take things too far when we insist upon arguing with fellow believers in an uncharitable way. There are essential doctrines, those which the Bible clearly teaches, such as the deity of Jesus Christ, His blood atonement, His resurrection, the depravity of the sinful human nature, the need for a new birth of the Spirit, salvation by grace through faith apart from works, and the existence of both heaven and hell. And a few other doctrines. Then there are secondary doctrines which we hold to, as a result of being Bible literalists. Beyond that, let us be careful of falling into a trap.

Beware of those folks who are always looking for an argument, and will never agree to disagree on very minor points, even words. Some folks major on the minors. Now it is good for the Christian to train the mind to make arguments from context, arguments from language, and arguments from logic. But let us never be so full of pride that we ourselves do not allow others to have their own views on very minor things. God’s people are not to be preoccupied with **“disputes over doubtful things”** (Romans 14:1). In fact, we should separate from folks who **“strive about words to no profit.”** We do this knowing that the fruit of such actions is **“the ruin of the hearers.”** This type of thing has been present since the early church, and Paul was prompted by the Spirit to write, **“Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen”** (Romans 16:17-20).